



File Code: 1950
Date: August 6, 2020

Dear Interested Party,

This letter initiates the scoping for the Golf Course OHV Improvements and Rehabilitation project on the Globe Ranger District. The project is located near the proposed Golf Course OHV Area, adjacent to the intersection of Forest Service Roads 230 and 2421, approximately one air mile south of Superior, Arizona. The legal location of the project is Township 2S, Range 12E, Section 16.

Existing Condition

The area surrounding the project area has historically been a destination for OHV and other motorized recreational uses due to close proximity of the major metropolitan area as well as smaller nearby cities.

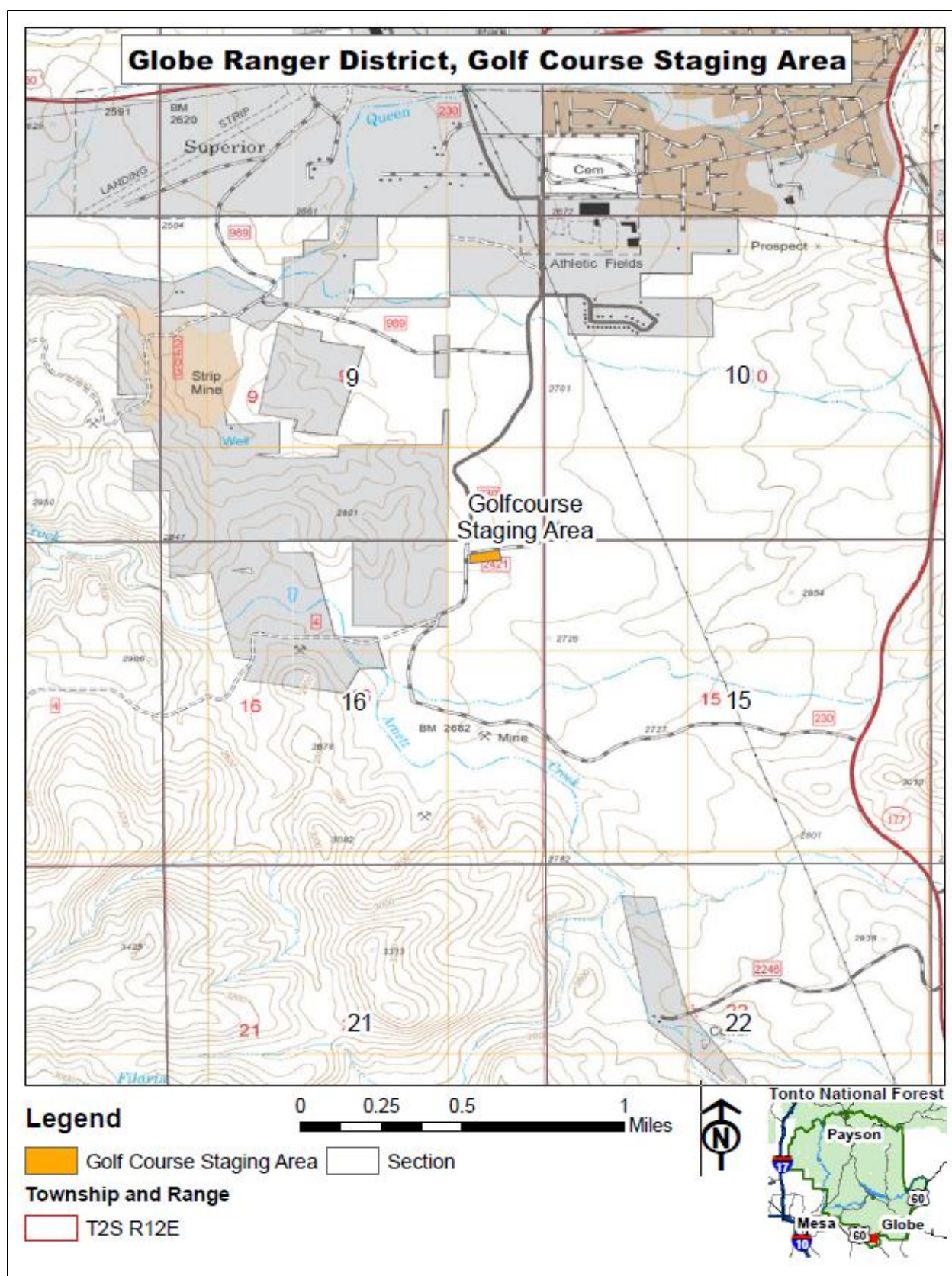
Existing forest system routes and an extensive network of unclassified user created trails can be found in and surrounding the area. Several illegal ramps and jumps were also built. Users park in any open area as there are no delineated parking spaces, posted user information, or formal structure to prevent encroachment into surrounding areas of vegetation or other sensitive resources.

Unmanaged use has resulted in extensive resource damage. The area identified for project activity was selected due to 1) its current use, 2) these presence of bare soil and extensive vegetation loss, and 3) the proximity to proposed future improvements of the Golf Course OHV Area, which is shown as a 17 acre plot open to OHV travel in the Travel Management Draft Record of Decision. Additionally, the Superior, Arizona Recreation Project Conceptual Plan proposal submitted by Recreation Users Group (RUG) as mitigation for the loss of the recreation opportunities due to the Resolution Land exchange at Oak Flats includes several staging areas and trailheads, one of which is adjacent to the Golf Course OHV Area proposed in Travel Management.

Desired Conditions

The 1985 Tonto National Forest Plan includes management direction, which applies to the Forest as a whole and also direction specific to each management area (MA). The project is completely within MA 2F, with the following management emphasis: Manage for a variety of renewable natural resources with primary emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement, water quality maintenance, livestock forage production, and dispersed recreation. Within the project area, the Globe Ranger District seeks to provide for the OHV use that is occurring there in a more sustainable manner, minimize future resource damage, and control proliferation of unmanaged OHV use into adjacent areas.





Purpose and Need

We need to provide a sustainable OHV staging area with well-defined areas for users to park and unload equipment and read information regarding responsible OHV use and legal routes in the area.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to improve upon a current unstructured parking area, of approximately one and a half acres (approximately 60,000 square feet.), This would be accomplished using hand tools and motorized equipment such as a loader, bobcat/sweco, motorized wheel barrels, and a compactor. Specifically, we would:

- 1) Delineate a parking area with boulders approximately three foot by three foot in size. The boulders would prevent use proliferation into adjacent vegetated areas.
- 2) Remove approximately one half acre of vegetation and spread approximately two inches of decomposed granite or aggregate within parking area to reduce mud and rutting.
- 3) Install a three panel kiosk by digging four holes approximately one and a half feet wide by two feet deep. The installation of a kiosk will reduce resource impacts by directing users to legal routes and provide responsible riding ethics.

Boulders and gravel will be purchased from a nearby source and matched to blend with surrounding area. Boulder placement will occur within the foot print of the parking area. Though some vegetation will be removed, efforts will be made to minimize removal while providing safe parking. Large trees will remain but trimmed to provide for shade. Planting up to five native trees and spreading native seed may occur. Work will be performed by Arizona Conservation Crews, Recreation Technicians, and Partner groups, small businesses and volunteers.

Comments

If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, especially any extraordinary circumstances, regarding the Proposed Action, **please send these in writing on or before September 10, 2020** to:

Sheryl Cormack, 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe Az., 85501 or email to comments-southwestern-tonto-globe@usda.gov. If you have questions concerning this process, please contact Sheryl Cormack at 928-402-6200.

When submitting comments, please keep them specific to this proposal only. Comments which are not specific to the project and project area will be deemed outside the scope of the analysis and will not be considered. If you are including references, citations, or additional information to be considered for this project, please specify exactly how the material relates to the project. Also



indicate exactly what part of the material you would like us to consider (such as page or figure number).

Comments received in response to this scoping notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this project and will be available for public inspection. Electronic comments must show name and address of submitter.

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, any persons may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality (7 CFR 1.27(d)).

Sincerely,

X 

Signed by: Department of Agriculture
ADAM R BROMLEY
District Ranger